



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
US ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCH AND MATERIEL COMMAND  
504 SCOTT STREET  
FORT DETRICK, MARYLAND 21702-5012

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

MCMR-RML (420)

10 DEC

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Policy Memorandum 2002-36, Purchase of Bottled  
Drinking Water

1. References:

- a. AR 40-5, 15 Oct 90, Preventive Medicine.
- b. AR 420-49, 28 Apr 97, Utility Services.
- c. TB Med 576, 15 Mar 82, Sanitary Control and Surveillance  
of Water Supplies at Fixed Installations.

2. This memorandum provides guidance and direction relative to the purchase of commercial bottled water and associated bottled water products with appropriated funds. It is applicable to all U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) subordinate commands, activities, and Headquarters staff offices.

3. The general sources of drinking water within this Command vary depending upon the location of USAMRMC activities and the condition and age of the supporting military installation or municipal water distribution system infrastructures. The quality of this drinking water at the tap and the management of a potable water distribution system is determined through mandated testing for harmful contaminants conducted on a cyclic basis in accordance with the above stated references and Federal and state safe water drinking guidelines.

4. The purchase of commercially produced bottled drinking water and associated bottled water products (such as water dispensers and disposable cups) with appropriated funds via Government Purchase Order or International Merchant Purchase Authorization Card (IMPAC) is not authorized and will cease immediately effective with the publication of this memorandum. The following exceptions to this directive are as follows:

MCMR-SSS READ FILE

MCMR-RML

SUBJECT: Policy Memorandum 2002-36, Purchase of Bottled Drinking Water

a. Local installation safety and environmental management office and/or water control authority determination that the general source of drinking water at the tap poses a potential health risk to employees due to potability or other risk factors.

b. Results of "first draw" water tests conducted of the water system or at the tap exceed the maximum contaminant levels of microbial, organic, inorganic, radioactive, or pesticide contamination as determined by Environmental Protection Agency approved laboratory analysis methods and local and Federal drinking water contaminant guidelines.

c. Independent water tests conducted at the tap indicate excessive levels of contaminants, and water is documented by the Commander to be unwholesome due to sedimentary turbidity and/or palatability issues to include taste, clarity, and smell.

d. Bottled water purchases are required to support active medical research protocols and/or procedures to ensure the consistency and validity of research data.

5. Commanders and Headquarters staff directors are encouraged to personally review current water test results for their activities and staff offices to validate and document the requirement for commercially produced bottled water products. Improper and unauthorized use of appropriated funds for such purchases is in contravention to this policy guidance and may result in a violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act and U.S. Code.

6. The USAMRMC activities located on Fort Detrick may call the Directorate of Installation Services at 301-619-2726 (Service Desk) to request applicable water tests and report analyses. Other USAMRMC activities are advised to contact their supporting installation director of public works or environmental management office to request water tests and obtain test analyses.

MCMR-RML

SUBJECT: Policy Memorandum 2002-36, Purchase of Bottled  
Drinking Water

7. This policy memorandum does not preclude or deny employees from engaging or participating in local bottled water groups or clubs in the workplace where personal funds are used to purchase bottled water products.

8. The proponent for this policy is the USAMRMC Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

SIGNED

MICHAEL T. BLOUNT  
Major, MS  
Secretary of the General Staff

DISTRIBUTION:

A plus

USAMRMC PARC (MCMR-AAZ-A)

CDR, USAG, Fort Detrick (MCHD-IS)